

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes

July 15, 2004
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, Ca.

Chair Lynnel Pollock called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. at the above location, followed by self-introductions. It was determined the (6) voting members did not constitute a quorum.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Butte	(Jane Dolan)	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	(Doug White)	(Ben Carter)	
Glenn	(Denny Bungarz)	Don Anderson	
Shasta	Glenn Hawes	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	(Russell Young)	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			(Jim McKevitt)
Cal DWR		Stacy Cepello	(Dwight Russell)
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			(Pete Rabbon)
USF&WS		Caroline Prose	(Darrin Thome)
USCOE			Mark Charlton
Bureau of Reclamation			(Frank Michny)

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

Manager Burt Bundy

Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary

1. Unscheduled Matters - John Merz reported the Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT) will be celebrating its 20th anniversary with a picnic at Woodson Bridge on Saturday, August 14th. They will have a catered lunch and opportunities for river tours and tours of local restoration sites. SRPT will be sending a notice out at a later date with more information on the picnic.

John also commented on the site south of the Highway 32 bridge where concrete rubble was being dumped on the bank. The dumping has been stopped and the site now has a bank swallow colony.

Bill Borrer expressed thanks to the USFWS for their assistance in extracting gravel at the Woodson Bridge boat ramp. The county was able to save money by placing the gravel back in the river rather than having to haul it away. He also informed the group that the house-raising project that has been underway in Tehama has been stopped by Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff, leaving several families with open contracts. A meeting will be held on Monday, July 19th, to discuss the issue.

Jeff Sutton, Family Water Alliance, asked about a project at the Butte City Bridge. The project had previously been discussed at both the Technical Advisory Committee meetings (TAC) and the Board. Kelly Moroney, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), gave a brief update noting four rock groins will be placed to protect the west side of the bridge for erosion control. This work should be completed in August.

2. Consent Calendar - No action was taken due to the lack of a quorum.

3. Agency Reports –

- *Hamilton City* - Burt Bundy reported the Hamilton City Project is included in both the Senate and House versions of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2004. Language earmarking up to \$1.5 Mil for Preliminary Engineering and Design is conditional upon receiving a favorable Corps of Engineers (COE) Chief's Report by December 31, 2004. The Reclamation Board will be asked to certify the final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report at the July 16th Board meeting. Mark Charlton, COE, noted the Project has received national attention from both the technical and institutional aspects. The design will take approximately 2 years with possible construction in 2006, depending on availability of both federal and state funds. The Nature Conservancy, Congressman Herger, and Senator Feinstein have all played a large part in the process. A Hamilton City Work Group meeting is scheduled for August 2nd, 9:00 a.m., at the Hamilton City Fire Hall. A notice will go out confirming the date and time.
- *Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (CCP/EA) for the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge* – Kelly Moroney gave an update on the CCP/EA which describes and evaluates three alternatives for managing the Refuge over the next 15 years. The biggest issues that were identified through the scoping process were public use/access, management, and flood control/management issues. Of the three alternatives, alternative B is the proposed action. Under this alternative the current farming activities would continue but would be phased out over time; approximately 3,255 additional acres of riparian vegetation and habitat on the Refuge would be restored/enhanced; and public use opportunities would be optimized to include the 6 public uses (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, interpretation and environmental education) throughout the Refuge. They have tried to apply the same uses as the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) where possible. Kelly noted the law enforcement program has been increased to include two full time positions. The public comment period is open from July 8th through August 20th. A public meeting is scheduled for July 20th, 6:00 p.m., at the Willows Memorial Hall in Willows; July 21st, 6:00 p.m., at the Masonic Family Center in Chico; July 27th, 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center in Red Bluff; and July 29th, 6:00 p.m., at the Colusa Industrial Properties in Colusa. They are asking for written comments only which can also be submitted electronically to sacramentovalleyrefuges@fws.gov.
- Mark Charlton announced the COE has a new Chief of Engineers, Major General Carl A. Strock and Sacramento also has a new District Engineer, Ronald Light. Mark reported the legislation to reauthorize CALFED, HR2828, is through the House, the Senate is discussing it and Mark noted there will be changes made by the Senate. He indicated they are not optimistic about Fiscal Year 05 appropriations. A question was raised about the 404 Regulatory Program, part of the Clean Water Act, and what can be done to speed up the process. Mark noted their funding may be down as much as 2 Mil. in the Sacramento District alone. The permitting process itself also needs

to be changed. In the past there has been every effort to not deny a permit which required a great deal of negotiation and took a considerable amount of time. They are looking at identifying the most difficult issues up front and, if necessary, denying the permit so the parties will know sooner.

- Department of Fish and Game – Diana Jacobs reported on the Milestones Evaluation for CALFED which is looking at the projects over the last four years and assessing the progress. More information is available on the California Bay Delta Authority website @ www.calwater.ca.gov.
 - California Bay-Delta Authority – Vickie Newlin reported there will be a Bay Delta Authority meeting on August 11th and 12th where there will be discussion on both the Delta Improvement Package and the Finance Options Report. They are now looking at developing a 10-year financing plan that will look at a budget for each program. The user fees option that was presented in the Finance Options Report is still being negotiated. Patrick Wright will be meeting with water users to discuss the issue of who benefits the most and who should be required to pay.
4. Executive Committee - The Committee discussed the governance issues; no action will be taken at today's Board meeting because of the lack of a quorum. Burt gave an overview of the issues and some of the recommendations that had come from the June 10th and today's Executive Committee meetings:
- I. *Board Member Appointments* –Move the appointment of Board members from June to January to coincide with the counties' reappointments. The current appointees would stay until January which would also give the opportunity to make a presentation to each of the Board of Supervisors on the SRCAF Program, appointment criteria, and Board member responsibilities.
 - II. *Establish Endorsing Signatories* - As provided in the MOA, the Board will establish an "endorsing signatory" (ES) to the SRCAF and seek endorsements from organizations that recognize the SRCAF as an important part of the planning, management, and implementation process along the Sacramento River. The SRCAF would provide each ES with one seat on the TAC and each working committee. The TAC is named in the MOA and includes representatives of signatories of the MOA, landowners, conservation organizations, or other interested parties, including ES. All parties, including non-signatories, would participate in the decision making process. Ad Hoc or Working Committee members would be made up of a representative of both signatory groups; MOA and Endorsing.
Comments at the Board indicated there were concerns that this process was exclusive and would discourage local landowner participation. It was suggested that the decision making should be on a consensus basis and if agreement can't be reached, the dissenting opinions would be submitted.
 - III. *Board Committee Structure* - Establish a Board Development Committee that would be appointed by the Board and report to the Executive Committee. The committee would meet 1-2 times a year and would provide orientation information for new

Board members and recommend a slate of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee. A majority vote would direct the action within the committee. A majority vote would also direct the action within the Executive Committee. Discussion on the governance issues will be carried over to the September Board meeting.

5. Board Committee Reports –

- TAC – Stacy Cepello reported on cross-boundary issues that have come up for discussion at the TAC over the past few months. Stacy has developed a draft work plan which lists specific tasks that need to be completed to produce a final summary report prioritizing “real life” cross-boundary issues with recommendations on how to avoid them. The Chair and Vice Chair prepared a memo to the Board asking for direction on whether to proceed and, if so, in what capacity because some of the tasks are so close to the work of the Landowner Assurances Committee (LAC). The Executive Committee and the Board recommended the focus could be narrowed to Task 1 which would develop a comprehensive description of all threatened and endangered species and special status species found in the Conservation Area and Task 3 which would develop a comprehensive description of all non-listed and non-special status species, habitat types, and management actions and activities that have been involved in cross-boundary issues or conflicts. The effort at the TAC would be focused on looking at what species are involved, what are the real problems, and what are some solutions. The amendment request recently submitted to CALFED by the SRCAF staff included a position for a technical person who could work on the other tasks, but the Board would like input from the LAC Chair to make sure there’s no overlap. Discussion on the cross-boundary issues will be placed on the on September 7th TAC agenda. The TAC will not meet in August but will meet on September 7th at 1:00 p.m. followed at 2:00 p.m. by a workshop on the Action Specific Implementation Plan which is required on CALFED funded projects only. Since there is no meeting in August, it was suggested that if a project comes up, the proponent email the fact sheet fact sheet to staff for distribution to the group.
- LAC – Burt reported a group met with David Aladjem regarding the \$15,000 Legaci grant. The meeting was arranged to further refine the scope of work and it was decided to focus on the mitigation and incidental take issues. Another meeting was held with representatives and solicitors from DFG and USFWS, members of the LAC, and representatives from Resources Law Group and CALFED on the proposed Voluntary Alternative Dispute Resolution process.

6. Future Meeting Dates - The Executive Committee recommended that the Executive Committee meet every month but that the full Board meet every other month. There was consensus of the Board to try the new schedule of alternating dates. The next Board meeting would fall on September 16th; the Executive Committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.